Asian Age Group Aquatics Championships:

Water polo silver tops off medal-laden campaign for Iran

● *IRSF*

Iranian boys settled for the water polo silver at the Asian Age Group Aquatics Championships in the Filipino city of Capas following a 17-13 defeat against Japan.

The two sides went toe-to-toe for the best part of the final showpiece, with only one goal separating them by the end of the third quarter, before the Japanese opened up a three-goal gap in the final period to walk away with the ultimate prize.

The Iranian young guns ran away comfortable winners over Malaysia (34-3), Sri Lanka (34-0), and played to a 9-9 stalemate against Kazakhstan, before a 19-8 victory over Singapore sealed a top-spot finish in Group B for Ali Pirouzkhah's boys.

Iran then went on to beat China 7-5 for a place in the final.

Saturday's silver brought the curtain down on a glorious campaign for the Iranian boys in Capas, which also featured a remarkable 18 medals across different age classes of the swimming and diving competitions.

Sam Vajer, who claimed the best diver award in the 15-17 age class, bagged a couple of golds in the boys' board level 3m and 1m contests, as well as the platform silver.

He also teamed up with Kiumars Aslani to win the 3m synchronized springboard silver and finish on the third podium in the synchro board level final.

Samyar Abdoli, meanwhile, led the charge for the country in the swimming contests with a men's 50m freestyle gold in the over-18 class, while he was part of the four-man team alongside Homer Abbasi, Mehrshad Afghari, and Matin Sohran that won the 4X100m freestyle relay bronze.

Mohammad-Mahdi Gholami also enjoyed a prolific campaign with five medals in the 13-14 age category despite leaving Capas without a gold – grabbing double silvers in the 200m individual medley and 200m butterfly events – as Iran finished with three golds plus eight silvers and bronzes apiece.

Mokhtari suspended by IWF after Vehbi Emre mayhem

Greco-Roman wrestler Mohammadreza Mokhtari has been banned "until further notice" by the Iranian Wrestling Federation, the IWF announced on Saturday, following a physical altercation with a Turkish opponent at the Yasar Dogu & Vehbi Emre tournament in Antalya.

The incident came in the closing stages of the 77kg semifinal, where Mokhtari, trailing a 7-3 scoreline, complained to the referee against the host's Yuksel Saricicek repeatedly using his arm an elbow when defending the Iranian's attacks, before his frustration eventually led to an exchange of punches and kicks between the two wrestlers.

Members from the two camps, including Iranian head coach Hassan Rangraz, as well as the organizing officials had to interfere to end the brawl and both athletes were disqualified afterwards, which gave Amin Kavianinejad – beaten by Mokhtari in the previous round – a second chance to go all the way to beat fellow-Iranian Ali Oskou 5-0 in the final.

Sharam Lorestani, the head of the Iranian federation's disciplinary committee said the final decision on Mokhtari will be made "following a full review of the incident", while he could be facing further punishment by the United World Wrestling – the international governing body of the sport.

The suspension could also mean the end of the ex-Asian champion's quest for a place in the Paris Olympics in August as Kavianinejad will now be the frontrunner to represent the country in the Asian qualification tournament in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, next month.

Mokhtari took to Instagram on Saturday to offer his apology to the Iranian wrestling fans, saying: "Respectful behavior has always been a top priority in my life and sporting career, and I deeply regret what happened in the bout against the Turkish wrestler."

Friday's incident overshadowed an impressive campaign for the Iranian 19-man squad in Antalya, which collected 12 medals – including four golds – to beat the host to the Greco-Roman team title.

Kavianinejad was joined by Pouria Dadmarz (55kg), Saeid Esmaeili (67kg), and Mohammad-Hadi Saravi (97kg) in claiming the ultimate prize of their respective weight classes, while Oskou, Amir-Reza Dehbozorgi (60kg), Rasoul Garmsiri (82kg), Mahdi Bali (97kg), and reigning world champion Amin Mirzazadeh (130kg), who suffered a knee problem ahead of the superheavyweight final, added five silvers to Iran's medal haul.

Amir Abdi (77kg), Abbas Mahdizadeh (82kg), and Fardin Hedayati (130kg) left Antalya with three consolation bronzes as Iran finished atop the table with 166 points, with Turkey in second on 107 points.

● *UWW*

Iran's Boloukat wins slalom bronze in Asian Junior Championships

Iranian skier Ali Boloukat bagged a second bronze for the country at the Asian Junior Alpine Ski Championships in Jilin, China.

The young Iranian finished third to athletes from Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan in the men's slalom event at the Beidahu Ski Resort on Sunday.

Atena Kiashemshaki had opened the account for Iran in the 32nd edition of the competition on the preceding day, when she won the women's giant slalom bronze – following South

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Korean and the host's skiers. Kiashemshaki was also part of the women's slalom race on Sunday, finishing fifth.

Doncic sets new NBA record in Mavericks win at Pistons

● *NIC ANTAYA/GETTY IMAGES*

BBC – Luka Doncic became the first NBA player to record six consecutive 30-point triple-doubles as the Dallas Mavericks won 142-124 at the Detroit Pistons.

Russell Westbrook's mark of five in a row from 2017 was beaten by Doncic as the Slovenian, 25, delivered 39 points, 10 assists and 10 rebounds on Saturday.

He also extended his own record with a fifth straight 35-point triple-double.

"That just shows what level he's playing on right now," said Mavericks coach Jason Kidd.

Kyrie Irving added 21 points for Dallas, who pulled away in the second half to claim their second straight win after a three-game losing streak.

Dallas now have a 36-28 record behind just the New Orleans Pelicans (38-25) in the Western Conference Southwest division.

The Denver Nuggets had their highest ever half-time lead of 78-44 before closing out a 142-121 win at home to the Utah Jazz.